



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

March 18, 2019

Dear Regent:

Last week, federal prosecutors in Boston charged 50 individuals in an elaborate and widespread admissions bribery scheme at elite colleges and universities. This investigation is the largest college admissions scam ever prosecuted by the U.S. Department of Justice. Such deception and fraud in the college admissions process undermines the integrity of our institutions of higher education, and erects unjust hurdles for students trying to get into universities through hard work, good grades, and community service.

The Legislature has assigned important responsibilities to the governing boards of Texas' institutions of higher education, including setting campus admissions standards.<sup>1</sup> Every board must therefore closely examine and investigate its admissions policies and procedures to ensure that no university employee engages in fraudulent schemes, *quid pro quo* arrangements, or improprieties of any sort. Boards must take measures to prevent the corruption of the admissions process. First and foremost, our universities exist to serve qualifying Texas students. Those students, their parents and taxpayers must have confidence that the system is not rigged.

The integrity of the admissions processes at Texas' institutions of higher education depends upon the unbiased assessment of the merits of each applicant. I expect that all universities will closely examine these issues and safeguard the integrity of the college admissions process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

Greg Abbott  
Governor

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<sup>1</sup> TEX. EDUC. CODE § 51.352(d)(4).